

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Statement

June 2011



What is in the Plan?

- Wilderness Review

- Required by policy
- A tool to evaluate current management
- Alternatives range from no new wilderness to all wilderness study areas recommended

- Wild & Scenic River Review

- Required by law and policy
- Alternatives range from no new wild rivers to four new rivers recommended

What is in the Plan?

- Revised Management Guidelines
 - No manipulation of fish/wildlife populations or habitats except in emergency
 - Observe and monitor climate change without intervention
 - No public use facilities on Refuge lands
- Vision, Goals, & Objectives
 - Explain proposed management approach
 - Provide specific steps/commitments for Refuge management

What is in the Plan?

- Six alternatives
- Each alternative includes:
 - Management guidelines (except Alternative A)
 - Goals and objectives (except Alternative A)
 - A range of approaches to three issues:
 - Wilderness
 - Wild rivers
 - Kongakut River visitor use
- An analysis of the effects of each alternative



Goals & Objectives

- Are the “heart” of the Plan
- For example:

GOAL: Provide continued subsistence opportunities

Objective: work with local communities

Objective: seek funding for harvest monitoring programs

GOAL: Provide a place for wildlife and wilderness-associated recreational activities

Objective: manage public use with least possible intrusion

Objective: develop a Visitor Use Management Plan



More About the Plan

- All aspects of the Plan must:
 - Meet the mission of the Service
 - Meet the mission of the Refuge System
 - Meet Refuge purposes
- The Alternatives must:
 - Meet all of the above
 - Address the issues



What's Not in the Plan?

- No oil and gas development scenarios
 - Only Congress can open the Refuge to oil and gas
- No wilderness designation
 - Only Congress can designate wilderness
- No preferred alternative
 - To be developed after public comments
- Most visitor use issues to be addressed in a separate plan – to be started after the CCP

What Does it Mean to Me?

- Subsistence opportunities continue
- Public use and access essentially unchanged
 - NEW: Permit required for all temporary facilities left from one season to the next in designated wilderness
 - NEW: Numbers of visitors could be restricted on wild rivers if river values are threatened
- No all-terrain vehicles for recreation (same as now)
- Natural processes and ecological functions would have a high degree of protection



What's Next?

- Look at the posters and displays
- Ask questions
- Provide comments
 - ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov
 - <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>
 - Comment period open until November 15, 2011
 - Be specific – what do you like/dislike and why
- Your comments will help shape the Final Plan
 - Final Plan in fall 2012
 - Record of Decision by end of year 2012

Thank You!

Your participation will help improve the
Plan

